

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 29 of 1875.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 17th July 1875.

THE *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 8th July, remarks, in an article headed the "Sources of the Country's Wealth," that it is really gratifying to note, that a desire to increase its internal opulence is at last manifested by a large number of natives. They seem to have been convinced that the country is rich in natural resources, and that it only required the power of united operation and perseverance among themselves to develop them. The improvement of agriculture alone will not suffice; simultaneously with an expansion of its agricultural resources, the commerce of Bengal should also be extended. The country should be able to supply foreign lands with raw, as well as prepared, articles.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
July 8th, 1875.

2. A correspondent of the same paper writes the following :—(1) According to law, a Hindu widow, without heirs, is competent to dispose of her deceased husband's property to liquidate his debts. Some widows, however, prepare false bonds, purporting to have been executed by their husbands while alive; and after obtaining decrees on the same, dispose of the property according to their pleasure. Those, on whom the property would otherwise devolve, are thus deprived of what in justice belongs to them. Hence it behoves Government, in the case of a Hindu widow, without heirs, coming to the possession of property, to enquire whether her deceased husband has any liabilities; if he has, Government should provide some means for meeting them. (2) No appeal is allowed against an order dismissing a criminal suit, or a sentence directing light punishment on the defendants. Appeals should be allowed in these cases. (3) The rule that the police may at their discretion send up to the court even respectable persons, if they happen to be defendants in a suit, however trifling, is indeed hard. This should be cancelled.

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3. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 9th July, directs the attention of the authorities to the frequent destruction of human life by wild beasts among the inhabitants of Govindnagar, in sub-division Thakoorgong, in the district of Dinagepore. Govindnagar was once a flourishing city, and traces of its ancient prosperity are still visible. But the place is now covered with dense jungle and infested by wild beasts, especially tigers. The inhabitants have begun to desert it. Government is requested to take speedy measures for the clearance of the jungle and the destruction of the wild beasts.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
July 9th, 1875.

4. Adverting to the petition of the *Poona Sárbahanik Sabhá* to the House of Commons, for the admission of a number of Indian representatives into Parliament, the *Rájsháhye Samáchar*, of the 9th July, observes that the *Sabhá* has, in this, committed a great error: it has asked for only sixteen representatives. Is it reasonable that that small number will be able adequately

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to represent a population of twenty crores? Moreover, it will be almost impossible to find sixteen men, who are competent, by their education and abilities, social position and means, to sit in the British Parliament. They will have but very little influence in an assembly of six hundred. The country will not gain by this partial representation. Even Ireland, with all her advantages, has, after so many years, begun to demand a "home rule." It would have been far better, if a parliamentary institution, like that in Canada, had been demanded for India. An Indian Parliament would secure better rule to the people, and teach them the important duty of self-government.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
July 9th, 1875.

5. The *Bhārat Sangskārak* of the 9th July remarks, in reference to the second minute of Sir Richard Temple on the text-books for the vernacular and the minor scholarship examinations, in which he has expressed his willingness to accord a preference to original works by natives, should such be found, that all hopes have been frustrated by entrusting Mr. Sutcliffe with the duty of judging of the merits of these works. It would be better if the task of selection were left with some educated natives. Those that are ignorant of the language will only make matters worse.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

6. Commenting on an article, in the *Friend of India*, on "Misrule in Oudh," the same paper asks Government, whether it is still disposed to overlook the anarchy in that province. It has all along enjoyed prosperity, and it is intolerable that the inhabitants should now suffer so much oppression. Another consideration is, that as Government stand guilty in the matter of the annexation of Oudh, they should seek to gain popularity; and atone for their guilt, by introducing into it sound principles of administration.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

7. We take from the same paper the following article, headed "Whether the English rule is popular in this country." The opinion, that English rule is not popular in India, is gradually spreading in England. She has no other means of knowing the thoughts and feelings of Indians but what may be gathered from newspapers; and it is not known that, unlike Europe, this country has yet no political parties, or papers to represent the exclusive views of those by whom they are supported. There are, of course, in this country men holding different views and opinions, but they have not as yet formed themselves into separate bodies; though we admit that there are indications, however faint, to shew that they will be able some day, which is yet distant, to organize parties. But these indications, as we have said, are extremely faint. The few native papers that have succeeded in gaining some measure of celebrity do but express the views of individuals. Almost all are conducted with the special object of advocating a particular principle or a particular interest. Some, indeed, are known to the public as upholding special views; but the party whose views they uphold do not recognize them as their organ, nor does the organ recognize its party, nor does the party know itself. Such papers only express the views of individuals, and not of the public. It nevertheless happens that many are found to agree with the views of the writer. The majority of the readers, again, having no power of independent thought, follow the writer as long as they read him, but easily forget everything as soon as they drop the papers. A few only think independently on all topics. England can never expect to learn the public opinion of the country from such a trifling number of newspapers. We do not, however, deny that English rule is unpopular with many. It behoves us to consider the nature and cause of this unpopularity.

There are, indeed, people in India who hate the very name of Englishmen, but their number is very limited. With the exception of the

fanatical Wahabees, we do not think there is any sect in India that wishes the subversion of the British rule.

With the educated section of natives the English rule has become unpopular for several reasons. *Firstly*, the partiality of the English Government: it has reserved all the high situations in the public service for the exclusive benefit of Englishmen. Though professing to recognize the natural rights of natives to employment in the country, in practice it ignores this liberal maxim. In administering justice, Government makes a distinction between black and white. The educated natives find this intolerable. *Secondly*, the arbitrary and self-willed rule of English officers. Government does not, on many occasions, pay the least heed to the opinions of natives on these matters. *Thirdly*, the injustice of Government in its dealings with native princes. The way, in which Government has treated the Nizam of Hyderabad, and the Guicowar of Baroda, and others, has not been consistent with justice; and, as such, many have become dissatisfied with it. *Fourthly*, some do not regard the English rule favorably because of its being a foreign Government. The number of such men among the educated portion of natives is not small. But few, however, on this account, would like to see a speedy termination of the British rule. There is, we believe, no difference of opinion as to its incomparable superiority over all native administrations. Many might indeed think that a better rule than that of the English would be desirable. But then there is an end of it. They cannot lose sight of the immense benefits derived from it. They are only eager to obtain that liberty, the love of which has been awakened in them by English civilization. But every one is convinced that this liberty may be enjoyed, even in subjection to the British Government. Many have also come to perceive, that, at no period under any of her former kings, was India so free as she is now. The educated section is of course eager to obtain this liberty; it is for this purpose that they agitate so much; and hence it is that they freely vilify the Government that has raised them to their present privilege. They want to have the freedom of Englishmen. And what free man would deny them this right? Certainly no Englishman. Only slaves keep others in slavery; but he alone, that is free, can appreciate liberty. There is not, however, the most distant sign of such sentiments among the masses of the people. They do not in the slightest degree concern themselves with the world of politics. It is only when new taxes are imposed, and their scanty income is touched, that they grumble and cry out under the oppressions connected with the collection of rents. Oppressed by the zemindars and the police officers, they complain of the absence of just protection, but are grateful for their security from thieves and robbers. On political questions they have no opinion. We admit, that the people of India are not so satisfied with the English rule, as the Chinese are with the Pekin Government; and the reason of this is to be found in the partiality of the English. The Tartar rule has become fully naturalized in China, and is not regarded as an alien Government by any Chinaman. The faults of a foreign rule, that are patent in India, are absent in the case of China; hence it is that the Tartar rule has been more popular there than the English here. Let the British Government seek to avoid the faults incidental to a foreign rule. Let it but govern disinterestedly, with a desire to do good to the subjects; and let it impartially restore to the natives their just rights, and it will then find that English rule will acquire an unparalleled ascendancy in Asia, and that to every native it will be a thing of his heart.

BNARAT
SANGSKARAK,
July 9th, 1875.

8. The same paper exhorts Government to make enquiries into the condition of the girls' schools, and do something to raise them from their present unsatisfactory state. With an exercise of proper supervision, and the aid of proper funds, the efficiency of a girls' school can be fully secured. We regret that, beyond expressing dissatisfaction with their present condition, the educational officers have done nothing to raise them to their proper status. It is not, however, always advisable to allow girls to attend páthsálas for boys, as has been suggested by Dr. Robson. Such a proceeding will, we fear, be fraught with unpleasant consequences.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
July 10th, 1875.

9. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 10th July, complains of the fearful prevalence of gambling in the villages and towns in the Dacca district; and requests Government to extend and enforce the Act for the prevention of gambling throughout the district.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

10. The same paper complains of the extreme partiality that has been shewn to some of the members of the Book Committee, from the selection, by Mr. Sutcliffe, of their works, for the vernacular and minor scholarship examinations, to the exclusion of better productions of native authors. Some of the selected works are not yet published, but have been prescribed.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

11. The same paper complains that wine vendors are in the habit of selling spirituous liquors after the prescribed hours, passing it out through the back-door of their shops, and that the police overlook their doings in consideration of bribes received.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
July 10th, 1875.

12. Adverting to the oppressions of the police, the *Grámbartá Prakashika*, of the 10th July, advises Government to appoint a number of secret spies to watch, and report upon, cases of oppression to Government. There is no other way of deliverance from the hands of the police. What oppressions are not practised where the police is in league with the zemindars? Anent the proposal of Government to increase the pay of the sub-inspectors of police, we would ask Government to appoint educated natives, on the enhanced rate of pay, to this department of the public service. Oppression and corruption will thus be checked.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
July 11th, 1875.

13. The *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 11th July, is gratified to find, that the East Indian Railway Company has begun to appoint natives as guards on the line. This is equally advantageous to both parties concerned. While the Company obtains efficient men at a cheap rate, a new sphere of employment is at the same time opened to the natives. The measure, however, has produced a great sensation among the East Indians and Europeans, who have hitherto enjoyed the monopoly of these appointments. The editor is not, however, pleased to see so many all at once thrown out of employment; and thinks, without exposing them to loss, natives might be taken in to fill those places as they might fall vacant.

SADHARANI,
July 10th, 1875.

14. The *Sádháraní*, of the 10th July, regrets, that the Lieutenant-Governor has, without making any inquiry into the subject, stated that he does not know of any good historical manuals in Bengali; and would rather have the native youth learn the errors of Messrs. Lethbridge and Clarke's translations, until corrected in a future edition, than allow them to study far abler works written by such men as Pandits Ishwara Chandra Vidyásagara and Rámngati Nyáyaratna, which have been already in use in the schools.

DACCA PRAKASH,
July 11th, 1875.

15. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 11th July, remarks that the pupils, studying the translations of Messrs. Lethbridge and Clarke's historical manuals, will only learn the wretched Bengali style which disfigures them.

By prescribing such books for the minor and vernacular scholarship examinations, the Lieutenant-Governor as well as the Director have displayed (1) a partiality to men of their own race, and (2) ignorance. The people should in one voice express their disapprobation of the course that is being followed by the authorities in this matter.

16. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th July, is gratified to find that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has revised his minute on the vernacular text-books; and, aware of the injustice that has been done to native authors, by excluding their works from the schools, has asked them to place themselves in communication with the Director of Public Instruction, if they have any good books of their own for adoption into the schools. If this were done before, all would have been right. Sir Richard Temple, however, should consult some educated native gentlemen in the matter of selecting the text-books.

SANACHAR,
July 12th, 1875.

17. The *Akhbār-ul-Akhiār* makes the following observations and suggestions in a rather lengthy article, anent the approaching visit of the Prince of Wales, and the reception he ought to receive as the future ruler of India. The editor declines entering into any statements as to the political benefits which the country may derive from the contemplated visit, and is of opinion that the people of India should have an opportunity of seeing and feeling the presence of their future king, and showing him their loyalty. Prior to the mutiny of 1857, the people here were not aware that they had a supreme ruler, as the administration was carried on by the East India Company; and even after the assumption of the Government by the Queen, no material alteration was made, as respects the officers, who had hitherto aided in the administration of the country. Not until the advent of the Duke of Edinburgh did the people of India begin to realize the existence of royalty; and the affection and esteem shown to the Royal Duke, in the lavishing of money without stint, in demonstrations of joy, and presents, would serve to arouse Europeans to a vivid sense of the loyalty of the people of Hindustan, who have always been foremost in showing their respect and esteem to their rulers, whether Hindu rājās or Mahomedan emperors. In the case, then, of the Prince of Wales let the demonstration be still greater than that shown to the Duke of Edinburgh. By this will the opinions of those, who are always harping on the disloyalty of the natives, be utterly falsified. Let them not betake themselves to ships and sail off to Rangoon or elsewhere, and miss the opportunity of witnessing the imposing sight of the glorious and magnificent reception of the Prince of Wales; but rather let them remain and see and testify to the grand display on so auspicious an occasion. Already there are signs of the commencement of preparations throughout India, amongst the different native states, for the reception of the Prince of Wales, in a style which will become his high and exalted rank. The editor concludes by proposing that Central Committees should be formed in all the principal cities of India, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Delhi, and Lucknow, with sub-committees at the minor towns. All, without distinction of caste, color, or creed, should be invited to contribute towards the principal fund in each city, and the rupee of the poorest should be welcomed on such an occasion as this. Out of this general fund, should be provided the expenses attendant on the reception of the Prince at every great town or city, as he will not have the time or opportunity to visit every place in Hindustan: thus the meanest subject will have the satisfaction at least of having contributed somewhat towards the reception of his future ruler.

AKHBAR-UL-AKHIAR,
July 1st, 1875.

18. With reference to the resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor, No. 1853 of the 14th June, this paper suggests, that, in addition to those officers whose duty requires them to visit schools during their tour or otherwise, the District Superintendent of Police, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, and the Abkari Deputy Collector, the Sub-Inspector of Police, and other civil officials should also be enjoined to visit and inspect them. Further, the Deputy Inspectors should, like Deputy Magistrates, not be promoted by favour or flattery, but for hard work, and application, and long service. The stopping of contingent expenses, too, can result in no good; for now the Deputy Inspector must be supposed to be the bearer of his own official and other letters to the post-office.

19. This paper learns, that, owing to a want of unanimity between the Mahárájá of Bettiah and his son, the Mahárájkumár, as also to the resignation of Mr. Gibbon, the late manager, that large estate is in a very bad condition indeed; the officers and others are much perplexed by reason of the issuing and carrying out of new orders. The attention of Government is earnestly directed to this matter, else the estate may go to ruin.

BEHAR BANDHU,
July 13th, 1875.

20. The *Behár Bandhu* states that, though the ways and manners of the Medical College pupils have somewhat mended, yet their nature cannot be changed. They are like the leaves of the *neem*-tree, which, though cooked with ghee and sugar, retain their bitterness.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 17th July 1875.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
17th July 1875.*

No.	Names.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Uchit Baktá" ...	Azimgunge, Moorshedabad	Bi-monthly ...	9th July.
2	"Sáptáshik Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	22nd June.
3	"Rájsháhye Samáchar" ...	Karachmárá, Rájshahye	Ditto ...	2nd and 9th July.
4	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensingh	Ditto ...	6th July.
5	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
6	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
7	"Bhárat Sangakarak" ...	Harinávi, 24-Pergunnahs	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
8	"Grámbártá Prákáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
9	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
10	"Dacca Prákash" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
11	"Howrah Hitakari" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
12	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
13	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
14	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.
15	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	5th to 9th July.
16	"Akhbár-ul-Akhiár" (in Urdu).	Mozufferpore ...	Bi-monthly ...	1st July.
17	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	10th ditto.
18	"Jám-Jehán-numá" (in Persian).	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
19	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Patna ...	Ditto ...	13th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.